

REPORTS  
ON THE WORKING OF  
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

**1930-31.**

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THE MUSEUM,  
Auberge d'Italie, Valletta-Malta.  
1st September, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Museum Department for the financial year, April 1930, March 1931, together with the reports of the Curators of the four sections.

The following is a table showing the number of visitors to the sites under the Department.

*Valletta Museum.*

Free on special days and by Student's tickets	...	...	5,318
On week-days at 6d.	...	...	2,657
On week-days at 3d.	...	...	978
Total No. of Visitors			...
			8,953

*Roman Villa-Museum, Rabat.*

Admission on payment (3d.)...	...	..	648
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*St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat.*

Admission on payment (3d.)...	...	...	548
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*Hal-Saffieni Hypogeum.*

Admission on payment	...	...	2,114
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Since the 27th March 1931 (Govt. Notice No. 118) the admission to the various sites has been fixed at the uniform rate of 6d. Free tickets are issued as usual to schools, institutions, and students. Visitors are also allowed to visit free most of the sites on special days as prescribed by Government Notice No. 111, 1931.

The following objects and publications were presented to the Museum during the year:—

	Presented by
1 Lithograph of Dragut (1834) ... ..	R. R. Cali, Esq.
1 Lithograph, Selling Milk, Malta ... ..	R. R. Cali, Esq.
5/- Currency Notes, Moulds and Plates ... ..	The Treasurer
2/- Currency Notes, Moulds and Plates ... ..	The Treasurer
1 Framed water colour (St. Anthony) ... ..	L. Upton Way, F.S.A.
11 Maltese Postage Stamps ... ..	Forbes Bently, Esq.
1 Aerial Photo of Musta ... ..	E. B. Vella, Esq.
1 Marble tablet with Greek inscription The inscription 20 by 15 cms., deciphered by Dr. Thomas Ashby, reads as follows:—"Titus Elius Hadrian Antoninus Pius, immortality to all his family, to the "Roman people, to the holy Senate and to the people "of the island of Sira....." (Time of the Antonines 138-161 A.D.) ... ..	Mrs. R. S. Stafford
1 Old yellow waistcoat ... ..	Rev. L. Scicluna
1 Piece of old damask ... ..	Rev. L. Scicluna
2 Old silk runners ... ..	F. Mangion, Esq.
1 Large grained rosary ... ..	Emm. Xerri, Esq.
3 Old brass buttons... ..	Emm. Xerri, Esq.
5 Cinerary Etruscan Urns ... ..	Mr. They's Bequest
1 Greek marble inscription This inscription, 54 by 40 cms. is a dedication to a Calpurnianus Philomusus by the priests in the 2nd. Century B.C.; kindly deciphered by Dr. L. M. Ugolini: "To Calpurnianus Philomusus the hieromnemoni offer "as a thanksgiving" ... ..	from Mr. They's Bequest.
1 Pair bronze knockers ... ..	The Supt. P. W. D.

		Presented by
1 Brass seal of the Consul of Sweden	...	} Miss M. C. England
1 Brass earring and two faience beads	...	
7 Brass Roman coins	...	
1 Old pair of nankeen trousers	...	

## PUBLICATIONS.

Handbook of Trinidad and Tobago 1924—Fiji— New Zealand expedition — Nutting 1922.		
Falkways by W. G. Summer	...	H. E. Sir Thomas Vans Bes
Memoirs of William Hickey 1749-75 and 1775-82		
The Ways of yesterday. (1307-1885)	...	L. J. Way F.S.A., Esq.
3 Vols. Monumenti antichi inediti	...	R. Cali, Esq.
16 Vols. British Encyclopaedia	...	Dr. L. F. Mizzi, G.M.G., L.L.D.
Aukland War Memorial Museum—Guide to the Josiah Wedingewood Bicentenary Exhibition.		The Director
Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum	...	The Director
Awake Malta	...	The Superint. Emigration Office
Memorias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz. Tomo XXIV		
Fasc 1. 2.	...	The Director
Bullettino della Società Piemontese di Archeologia ad Arte—No. 3, 4, Anno 14	...	The Director
Memories of the Ryojun College of Engineering		
Vols. III No. 2a, 2, 2c.	...	The Chairman
Report of the United States National Museum	...	The Secretary
The Malta Crisis	...	Rev. Mons. E. Dandria, D.D.
Fundberichte Ausschwaben	...	Prof. Gessler
Journal of the R. Anth. Inst. of G. B. & Ireland	...	The Secretary
Four Brochures on flint implements	...	J. Reid Moir, Esq.
1 Brochure about A. L. Du Cros	...	Miss D. Agassiz

The following objects were acquired for the Museum:—

Engraving of Alferan, Prior of the Conv. Church	Two drawings by Favray One Lithograph by Caruana
Three old pen and pencil drawings	Self-portrait by Caruana
Two small books in Arabic	Charcoal drawing, view of Malta (18th Cent.)
Eight prints about Malta	Five drawings by Pulicino
Four tempera painting by Busuttil	Two English water-colours (19th Cent.)
Piazza San Giorgio (Oil painting)	One engraving by Farrugia
St. John's Church (Oil painting)	Two wax statues ascribed to Gafa
Grand Master Wignacourt, portrait of	A movable altar
Self portrait of Giuseppe Cali	Two water colours by Edward Lear
Two studies in oils by Giuseppe Cali	One Majolica jar with coat of arms of Manoel
Nine drawings and one oil painting by the same	Three oil paintings of Malta
De Rohan as a protector of Fine Arts (Oil painting)	Seven old silk gowns
Self portrait of R. Cali	A lot of old Maltese funereal pottery
One old gold ring	Three old prints of Malta
	Two old waistcoats and slippers
	Seven views of Gigantea.

The second number of the Museum Bulletin was published in October 1930, The numerous reviews of the same and the letters of congratulation received show that this publication is being highly appreciated by students.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

TEM. ZAMMIT,  
Director.

His Honour  
The Lieut.-Governor.

Broken human bones were to be seen buried under the soft stone debris. The following objects were buried with the body: One clay dish  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches (165 m.m.) in diameter, one clay bottle (aryballum) 6 inches (15.4 cms.) high, one clay flask 6 inches (15.4 cms.) high, and a clay bilyehnis lamp of an early Phoenician type. The scanty and very poor tomb furniture, duly measured and sketched, was left in the hands of the Blue Sisters the owners of the field and the tombs were allowed to be filled up.

#### *Rock-tomb at Hamrun—Via Casal Curmi.*

Whilst trenching for the foundations of a house in the white, soft, clayey rock, a grave-chamber of a late period was cut into. The site was surveyed on the 17th July 1930. Fragments of human bones were mixed with abundant debris of the clayey rock. The fragments of two clay amphorae and a clay unguentarium were found, but neither these nor the tomb were worth preserving.

#### *Well-tomb at Gudia.*

On the 7th October, the Police reported the accidental breaking into a pit in a field not far from the "Bettina Palace" at Gudia. The site was inspected by my assistant the day after. He reported that the said pit was one of the usual bell-shaped well-tombs, full of stones and rubbish up to 7 ft. (2.15m) from the surface. Its circular mouth, about 1 m. in diameter, was originally covered by a square slab 2 feet 7 inches (80 cms) per side, and 4 inches (10.5 cms.) in thickness. The pit went straight down for 1 ft. (30 cms.) and then widened considerably. The owner of the field who wanted to turn the pit into a water tank emptied it from the debris which turned out to be nothing but stones and rubbish. As no archaeological material was met with, the owner was allowed to turn the pit into a water tank.

#### *Rock-tomb at Hal-Far.*

The Zurrigo Police reported on the 19th December 1930, the discovery of a rock-cut tomb. During the afternoon of the same day, we inspected the place and found a double rock-cut tomb of the third period in the field known as "Il-giardin tal-Bakkari", to the west of the Hal Far Areodrome.

The tombs, rifled long long ago, were full of earth and stones. On cleaning the chambers, the bones of at least two human bodies were found, including, one male and a female, in a fairly good preservation. On measuring the skulls, the male had a cephalic index of 70, and that of the female, 65, both therefore, dolicocephalic.

The tombs had a rectangular shaft 5 feet (1.52m) long, 3 feet (91 cms.) wide and 5 feet (1.52m) deep. One of the chambers with a N.S. direction at the East end of the shaft, was 6 feet (1.83m) long 3 feet (92 cms.) wide, and had one head-rest at its southern end; the other chamber at the side of the shaft had the same direction and length but a trifle wider. At the southern end it had two head-rests. In the right wall, at the entrance of each chamber, was a lamphole.

As no object of archaeological importance was met with, on the removal of the skulls, the tombs were allowed to be filled up again.

#### *Rock-tomb at Tarxien.*

On the 17th Jan. 1931, the Police notified the Director of the Museum that in the Mater Boni Consilii Street, in the field called "Marqad-il-Moghz", a rock tomb was accidentally broken into. The site was at once inspected when it was found that a single-chambered rock-tomb was broken into during the cutting of a trench. The tomb was 6 feet (1.83m) under the surface of the ground. The shaft leading to the chamber was still full of stones. The square sealing slab, 3 feet (92 cms.) per side and 3 inches (7.5 cms.) thick, was recently broken, but the contents of the burial chamber had not been tampered with. The tomb was very roughly worked and its floor was covered with a thick layer of silt. The chamber was 4 feet (1.22m.) high, 7 feet (2.13m) long, and 5 feet (1.53m) wide. A trench cut in the floor to the right of the entrance was 3 feet (92 cms.) long, 6 inches (15.4 cms.) wide, and 6 inches (15.4 cms.) deep.

The human bones lying on the floor were in part disintegrated, fragments of bones were also found in the jars, introduced, evidently, by water that in the course of ages found its way into the tomb. Grouped in the corner, to the right of the

APPENDIX A.

Report of the Curator of the Archaeological Section.

THE GHAIN TUFFIEHA VILLA AND THERMAE.

The continuation of the excavation of this site was resumed on the 1st May 1930.

Mr. L. Upton Way F.S.A., who remained in Malta up to the 24th June 1930, undertook to supervise the excavations and to defray part of the travelling expenses to that distant part of the Island.

About the middle of May, we had the advantage of a consultation on the spot with Dr. Thomas Ashby, the well known expert on Roman Antiquities. The demise of Dr. Ashby in April 1931, was, therefore deeply felt by us. Dr. Ashby was a constant visitor to Malta and he keenly appreciated the ancient remains of these Islands about which he found time to write a good deal.

As there is a deep layer of soil covering the ruins at Ghain Tuffieha the work proceeded slowly this year. The building stones of the Thermae had practically disappeared, so that nothing remained beyond the floors which were considerably damaged even at the depth of five feet.

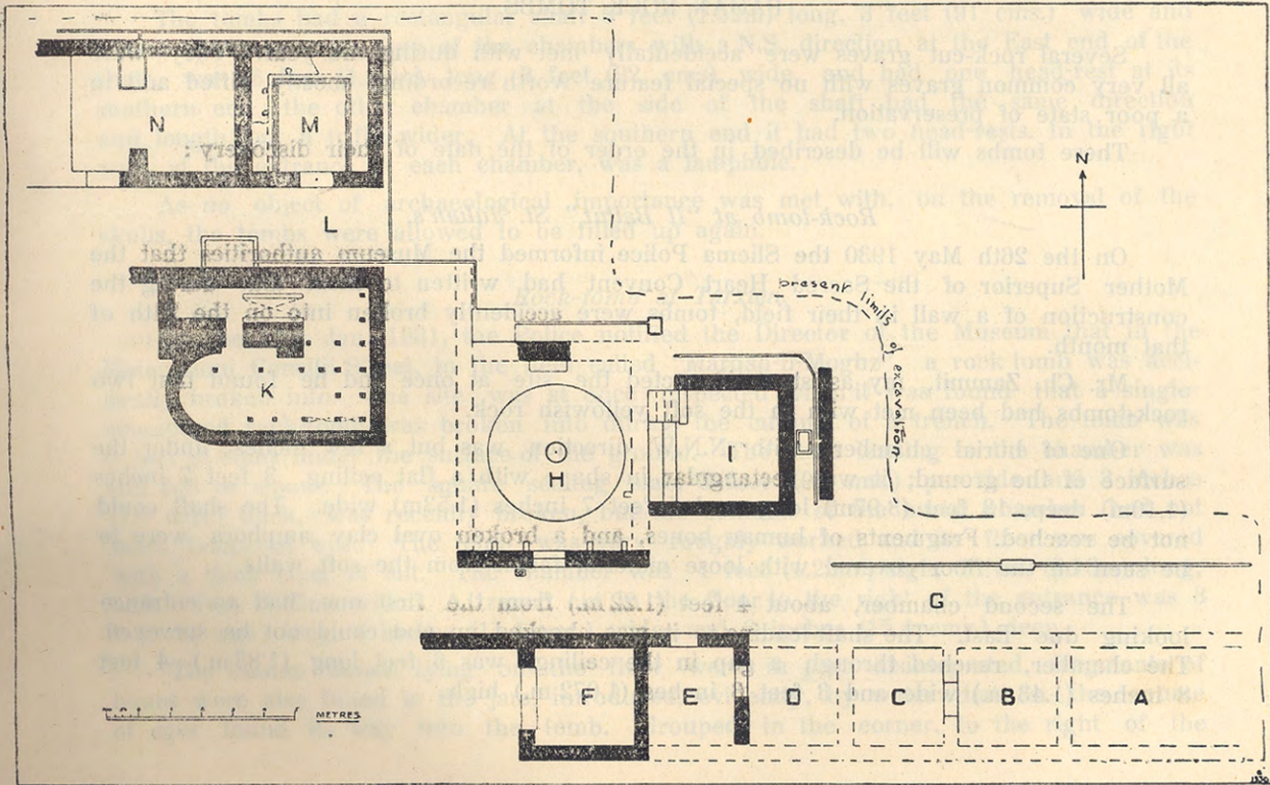
To give some account of the interesting points during the year's excavation I propose to go over the cleared site from East to West. [see plan].

At the end of eastern limit of last year's excavations a properly laid channel running at right angles to the main corridor (S to N.) showed that the entrance to the building could not have been on this side of the corridor.

At a distance of about 2 m. from the eastern water channel, a solid mound of roughly squared stones was found which further observations proved that it became entangled with the construction of a limekiln erected at a later period on the site.

What remained of this kiln was a thick wall of which four courses could be made out forming a solid mass 1.15m. high and 1.37m. thick. The stones were of a bluish colour showing that they had been submitted for a long time to an intense heat.

The western side of the kiln wall was distinctly concave and it may be safely inferred that the internal diameter was nearly 2m. The kiln was built on a tiled pavement of the corridor when the Roman building was already in ruins. At floor level, masses of white lime were found caked against the wall. The remains of this kiln, previously photographed and measured, were cleared away.



Plan of the portion of the Ghain Tuffieha Roman Thermæ excavated up to the end of March 1930.

Cleaning the southern side of the contiguous rooms, A, B, C, D, E, F, on plan, a shallow basin was met with which appears to be 14.94 m. long 10.20 m. wide. Its depth from the surface at the point so far excavated, is 87 cms. Both the floor and the walls of this basin are carefully covered with plaster. At a depth of 60 cms. from the surface there is a bench of an average height of 27 cms. and 48 cms. broad, built along the wall. Strangely enough, the walls of this basin are not built of stones, but cut in the red soil, and covered with a thick plaster. In the course of time, the red soil saturated with water, gave way at many points under the stress of the heavy material collected on the surface. Numerous fragments of good Roman pottery, glassware and marble slabs were collected from this area.

If this was a piscina it must have required a good amount of water to fill up, but being very close to the Ghain Tuffieha spring, which even now delivers about 80,000 gallons of water per day, it could have been easily filled up throughout the whole year.

Cleaning the soil to the west of corridor G we found that a great deal of destruction was wrought in the floor of this part of the building. Evidently, to the south of the furnace room (K on the plan) another hypocaust existed at a time, for a number of square tiles, forming evidently the base of pillars, distant about 60 cms. from each other, were found still in place. Numerous fragments of bricks, large terracotta tiles, mixed with a thick layer of wood ash, lime, and loose clay, testify to the presence of a furnace room covered with a tiled floor. This hypocaust was at least 3.10 m. long and 1.55 m. wide. To the north side, it was bounded by the thick wall of the big furnace room and to the south by a hard stone pillar still covered with thick plaster.

In contact with this stone pillar one still can see tiled floors separated by 33 cms. of hardened earth and chipped stones. The upper floor is made of clay lozenges 10 by 6 by 1.7 cms. the lower floor is made of larger lozenges 14 by 8.5 by 2 cms.

To the west of this point, the ground is completely disorganized and covered with large and small stones, the decayed remains of a building carelessly broken and cleared out.

Not far from this point, numerous stone channels were met with, broken mostly and not easy to follow, the most interesting being those to the north of the rooms M.N. and those of the south of the hypocaust.

The small finds, very poor and scanty, consist of a few worn out Roman coins, fragments of household pottery, clay and marble tiles, marine shells, some of which carefully sawed through and polished, bricks, and pieces of coloured plasters. All these objects are now in the Valletta Museum.

#### PAGAN ROCK TOMBS.

Several rock-cut graves were accidentally met with during the year. They were all very common graves with no special feature worth recording, mostly rifled and in a poor state of preservation.

These tombs will be described in the order of the date of their discovery :

##### *Rock-tomb at "Il Ballut" St. Julian's.*

On the 26th May 1930 the Sliema Police informed the Museum authorities that the Mother Superior of the Sacred Heart Convent had written to them that during the construction of a wall in their field, tombs were accidentally broken into on the 24th of that month.

Mr. Ch. Zammit, my assistant, inspected the site at once and he found that two rock-tombs had been met with in the soft yellowish rock.

One of burial chambers, with N.N.W. direction was but a few inches under the surface of the ground; it was rectangular in shape with a flat ceiling, 3 feet 7 inches (1.10m) deep, 13 feet (3.97m) long, and 5 feet 7 inches (1.53m) wide. The shaft could not be reached. Fragments of human bones, and a broken oval clay amphora were to be seen on the floor covered with loose material fallen from the soft walls.

The second chamber, about 4 feet (1.22 m.) from the first one, had an entrance looking due East. The shaft leading to it was chocked up and could not be surveyed. The chamber, reached through a gap in the ceiling, was 6 feet long (1.83 m.) 4 feet 8 inches (1.43 m.) wide and 3 feet 6 inches (1.072 m.) high.

entrance, were the following clay vases: three Clay jar (enoches), one  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches (29 cms.) high and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches (14 cms.) wide at the bottom, another one 8 inches (20.5 cms.) high, a third one  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches (25 cms.) high, and a clay dish was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches (16.5 cms.) in diameter. No lamps or other small objects were to be seen. After being measured, the tomb furniture was returned to the owner who claimed it.

#### *Rock-tomb at Mgiar Malta.*

A rock-tomb was reported to be accidentally broken into at Mgiar in the yard of the house No. 34, New Street, on the 3rd. Feb. 1931.

My assistant was soon on the spot. He reported that two rock-tombs, rifled long ago, and now full of stones and rubbish, had a common rectangular shaft.

As no archaeological material was forthcoming and as the old rubbish that filled the pit was evidently thrown in recently, it was not thought worth while to clear the pit and the owner was allowed to fill it up once more.

#### *Rock-tomb in the Krendi district.*

On the 8th February 1931, a farmer reported the accidental discovery of a rock tomb in his field to the N.E. of Hajar Kim, in the district known as "Tal Ghain" not far from the chapel of San Niclau. On inspection, it was found that the tomb had been rifled long ago and filled up with stones and red soil. A roughly rectangular shaft with rounded corners, 4 feet (1.22m.) wide, 5 feet (1.53m) long, and about 5 feet deep, contained at the bottom the remains of a sealing slab 2 feet 6 inches (76 cms.) by 3 feet 1 inch (94 cms.) and 8 inches (20.5 cms.) thick. A square entrance, 4 feet (1.22 cms.) high and 2 feet 5 inches (73 cms.) wide, lead into a rectangular burial chamber 5 feet (1.53m.) long, 4 feet 9 inches (1.45m) wide and 4 feet 3 inches (1.29m) high. Two lamp-holes were cut in the walls of the chamber, about 3 feet 6 inches (1.07m.) from the floor.

A special feature of the chamber was the presence in it of the remains of a stone trough or sarcophagus standing close to the back of the chamber. The walls of the sarcophagus were about 3 inches (7.5 cms.) thick; the case itself being 4 feet 10 inches (1.47m.) long, 3 feet (92 cms.) wide and 1 foot 10 inches (56 cms.) high on the outside. It was broken in front, and in the left wall two holes were drilled,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch (3 cms.) in diameter, one close to the bottom and the other close to the top. Inside the sarcophagus a broken clay bowl  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches (19 cms.) in diameter and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches (12 cms.) high was found. This bowl is of a dark gray colour and very poorly baked, it is slightly carinated and is decorated with four triangular lugs slightly curved upwards and fixed equidistantly round the body. The appearance of the vessel is that of an implement of the late Bronze Age Period.

In the debris of the tomb a portion of a copper bracelet, two corroded iron nails, and fragments of Punic potsherds were also found. No complete human bones were found but fragments of unrecognisable animal bones were collected.

#### ETRUSCAN CINERARY URNS.

Mr. F. They, an old maltese collector of antiques, died at Rabat, Malta, in 1893 aged about 70. He was known as a quaint gentleman of independant means who in an unobtrusive way collected odds and ends and stored them in an old house at Strada Reale. Very few people were allowed to inspect this collection which the public who were never allowed to see it, magnified in the inverse proportion of its knowledge. The old man left his property to two sisters who kept the house closed against all comers. When the two sisters died, the property of Mr. They came under the auctioneer's hammer. In his will Mr. They bequeathed to the Museum five cinerary urns, a Greek marble inscription, and a great number of brass coins in a very bad condition.

The Director of the Museum inspected Mr. They's collection at this juncture. It consisted of thousands of funerary pottery objects, amphorae, cinerary urns, lamps, dishes, glass ware, etc. all from local finds, besides old brass objects, pictures, books, fossil shells, old furniture, old costumes, coins of the Order of St. John, majolica vases, modern glass ware etc. all objects usually met with in the house of old fashioned bric-a-brac collectors



When the Director of the Museum came to choose the objects bequeathed to him, he found in two cupboards four cinerary urns of the well known Etruscan (Chiusi) type of which no specimens had ever, to his knowledge, been seen in Malta.

Two very interesting questions had to be solved; were these urns discovered in Malta, or were they imported? Very important questions, but not very easy to answer.

Against the theory that the cinerary urns were excavated in Malta, one has the fact that no writer of our history and archaeology has ever mentioned the finding of Etruscan urns in the Island, and in the record of the last 50 years of excavations no mention has ever been made that such peculiar and characteristic funereal objects were seen or heard of out here.

Prima facie, therefore, these urns were not dug out in Malta. Mr. They was no connoisseur and he only acquired cheap things found in the hands of ordinary people. The Etruscan urns must have been an article of commerce in the Mediterranean. If imported they were carefully preserved by the importer, for four of the urns are in a good state of preservation. One must keep in mind that early in the forties Malta had an extensive commercial intercourse with Leghorn and it is quite reasonable to surmise that a speculator may have exported a number of small Etruscan urns in the hope of meeting in Malta a collector of antiquities. Unless a local collector had himself requested a friend at Leghorn to supply him with such antiquities. In time, some information may be forthcoming from unexpected quarters, but in the meantime I believe that however the objects came to rest in the cupboard of Mr. They, it is worth while to give a short description of them for a possible future reference and also for the information of local students.

The Etruscans flourished in central Italy between the Appennines, the Tiber and the Tyrrhenian sea up to the end of the 6th Century B.C. Perugia, Orvieto, Cortona and Chiusi are the best known for their tombs and other local finds of unique character.

About 625 B.C., the Cypro-Phoenician element was giving place to the Corinthian Greek.

In the 6th Century, Etruria allied itself with the Carthaginians against the Greek of Campania, Sicily and Corsica. An Etruscan colony established itself in Corsica acquired from the Greeks in 474 B.C.

By the 3rd century, Rome overwhelmed Etruria which, by 200 and 100 B.C., disappeared from history suffocated by Greece and Rome.

The Etruscans practiced cremation and the ashes of the deceased were usually placed in an earthenware jar, a pottery model of a hut, or a decorated terra-cotta casket. The tombs were not dissimilar to the Maltese rock tombs, *tombe a pozzo* or *a fossa* or *a camera*.

The cinerary urns and the Sarcophagi were in the form of a casket on the lid of which, modelled in effigy, was the figure of the deceased. Very often, the sides of the casket bore in relief scenes from Etruscan life, its warfare, its feasting, its farewells. (\*)

The Etruscan objects obtained from They's collection, and now preserved in the Roman Villa Museum at Rabat, are the following:—

One clay rectangular casket 27 cms. high, 44 cms. long and 23 cms. wide. A well-modelled male figure draped in flowing robes sits and half reclines on the lid, his left elbow supported on a cushion, his right hand grasping a circular dish lying on his lap.

The front surface of the urn represents two fighting warriors known to students as the duel between Eteocle and Polinice or the Theban fratricide. A winged figure stands at each end of the scene; the figures show traces of paint upon them. On the upper part of the frame, just below the lid, traces of an inscription in red letters is still to be seen, but most of the letters are damaged.

The second urn is a terra-cotta casket 27 cms. high, 44 cms. long and 21 cms. wide. On the front side, the scene of the Theban fratricide is repeated, the composition consists of four figures, two fighting warriors and two winged genii at the sides. There is no inscription on the upper part of the frame. On the lid, the figure of the deceased, wrapped up in a kind of military cloak, reclines fully with head and shoulders supported by a couple of cushions.

(\*) M. A. Johnstone—Etruria Past and Present—London 1930.

The third urn, likewise rectangular, is 21 cms. high, 31 cms. long and 16.5 cms. wide. On the lid is a male recubent figure of the Volterra type. In front, figured in relief, is the well known episode of the hero Echetlus who swings on his enemies a heavy wooden plough. One of the warriors is already on his knees and tries to protect himself with his shield. A second warrior is running to his rescue with a naked sword, and another one on the other side flourishes a dagger. The figures were at a time painted in different colours.

A very clear inscription of 22 letters, painted in red, covers the upper edge of this urn.

The fourth urn is similar to the preceding one, as far as the figures in front are concerned, that is, it records the fight of Echetlus helping the Greeks at Maraton. The casket measures 19 cms. in height, 37 cms. in length and 15 cms. in width. On the lid is the figure of the deceased with bust erect and supported by a cushion on which his left hand is abandoned; in his lap is a dish held by his right hand. No inscription is visible.

Besides these caskets there is the lid of another cinerary urn on which a figure is stretched in placid repose.

There is also the front part of another Etruscan urn of the III cent. B.C. Two figures, one on each side, stand by the mystic gate of Hades stretching between themselves a rich wreath. Behind each figure is a winged fury with one hand uplifted whilst with the other a burning torch is held close to the body.

T. ZAMMIT,

Curator of the Archaeological Section.

## NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

THE MUSEUM

Auberge d'Italie,

Tuesday 30th June, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the Museum during the financial year 1930-31.

## GEOLOGY.

Following a report made to the effect that some fossil remains had been met with in one of the quarries at Hal Reskun, within the limits of Casal Luca, I visited the locality and I found that the fissure containing these remains was only a continuation of the one mentioned in last year's report. This year only the superficial part of the fissure has so far been uncovered and the fossil bones met with are in a still more fragmentary condition than those met with last year and quite unidentifiable. They appear to belong to one of the large mammals, probably to the same species of Elephant (*E. mnaidrensis*) met with last year.

I had several photographs of the locality taken, and instructions were also given to the proprietor of the quarry how to deal with future finds.

## GHAR DALAM.

The excavations inside the cave have been suspended for the time being. The Museum just over the cave is partly completed, and a large quantity of material is now ready for exhibition as soon as the necessary show-cases are available. The most important part of this material has been preserved at Birzebbugia since 1914 whilst a quantity of fossils is still lying at the entrance of the cavern.

I may mention that such scientists as Sir Arthur Keith, Prof. Baron Frejervary, Prof. MacLaughlan, Sir George Duckworth, The Hon. Baron Blanc and last but not least Prof. Ugolini who is continually taking such interests in our archaeology, have expressed themselves in most flattering terms regarding this our most important monument. Their letters which are in my possession show the great importance of Ghar Dalam.

## FROM THE TERTIARY DEPOSITS OF MALTA.

A part of a skeleton of what appears to be a cetacean from the coralline limestone of Madliena met with during the works carried out by W.D. and presented to the Museum by Col. S. F. Newcombe R.E., D.S.O.

A fossil cast of a mollusk from the same deposit presented also by Col. Newcombe.

## ZOOLOGY.

a) *Mammals.*

One bleached and mounted skeleton of Wolf (*Lupus lupus* Lin.) purchased from Dr. Schluter and Dr. Mass of Halle "Saale" Germany. For purposes of comparison.

b) *Birds.*

One Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* L.) mounted.

Two Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra curvirostra* L.) male & female, from the immigration of the autumn 1930, mounted.

One skin of Cirl bunting (*Emberiza cirlus* L.) male.

One Squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides ralloides* Scop.) mounted.

One Crested duck (*Nyroca fuligula* L.) mounted.

Two Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus* L.) male & female mounted.

One Mediterranean black-headed gull (*Larus melanocephalus* Temm.) mounted.

One Little crane (*Porzana parva* L.) mounted.

c) *Reptiles.*

Two large specimens of the black variety of the dark green snake (*Zamenis gemonensis* var. *carbonaria* Bonap.) one from Gargur and one from Pietà. Both preserved in alcohol.

One smaller specimen of ditto, from Pietà. Preserved in alcohol.

One very young specimen of the Leopard snake (*Coluber leopardinus* Bonap.) from Bigli, presented to the Museum's collection by Surgeon Rear Admiral Sir Reginald Bankart, K.C.V.O. Preserved in alcohol.

Two medium sized specimens of ditto from Pietà. Preserved in alcohol.

One light coloured variety of ditto also from Pietà. Preserved in alcohol.

One special variety of the Leopard snake (*Coluber leopardinus* var. *quadrilineatus* Pall.) from Valletta, presented by Mr. Ant. Portelli. Preserved in alcohol. Though my late friend Dr. Giovanni Gulia in his "Uno sguardo alla zoologia delle isole Maltesi" of 1913, gives this variety as the one which is common here, I can say that the present specimen is the first and only specimen which I have ever come across. It is preserved in alcohol.

One medium sized specimen of the Cat snake (*Tarbophis fallax* Schl.) from Floriana, caught close to the Capuchins' convent. It lived for more than six months in confinement and with it several experiments were made. Lizards bitten by it generally succumbed in less than one minute, only one specimen died four minutes after it was bitten. This snake has been preserved in alcohol.

One skink from Bigli gardens, presented also by Sir Reginald Bankard, and preserved in alcohol.

A terrarium has been constructed in the agricultural nurseries at St. Philip's gardens close to the Argotti, for keeping some wall lizards (*Lac. muralis* forma tipica Laur.) from central Europe, with the object of ascertaining whether the change in the local varieties and sub species of our *Lacerta muralis* are solely due to the peculiar surroundings.

d) *Fishes.*

Two specimens of Derbio (*Lichia glauca* Lin.) preserved in a solution of formaline.

One specimen of Ray's bream (*Brama raji* Schn.) preserved in the same solution.

One specimen of Remora (*Echineis remora* Lin.) preserved in alcohol.

One specimen of what is known locally as "Gringu tan-nemex" (*Myrus vulgaris* Kaup.) This is a rare species in our waters. In fact, though in my ichthyology of Malta I stated that I had been assured that the fish is taken occasionally, this is the first and only specimen which I ever saw.

One large specimen of what I consider as a rare fish known locally as *ImSELLA Imperiali* (*Tetrapterus belone* Raf.) taken locally on the 21st October last, it has been preserved in a solution of formaline. This is also the first and only specimen which I have ever seen taken in our waters.

One young specimen of the Grey motidanus (*Hexanchus griseus* Raf.) preserved in a solution of formaline.

Two specimens (colour varieties) of the smooth hound (*Mustelus vulgaris* M. Hle.) preserved in a solution of formaline.

Two specimens of the black-mouthed dogfish (*Peistiurus melanostomus* Raf.) preserved in a solution of formaline.

One very young specimen of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca* Lin.) preserved in a solution of formaline.

Six embryonic specimens of ditto likewise preserved.

One abnormal specimen of the thorn back (*Raja clavata* Lin.), of which an X ray photograph was taken by Dr. De Tivoli and Dr. Petessi at San Galliano's hospital of Rome, the abnormal specimen having been submitted to my friend Prof. D'Ancona of the

Anatomical and Zoological Institute of the Royal University of Siena a well known specialist from whom I have received so much help. This specimen has now been preserved in alcohol and a weak solution of formaline.

One large sea snake? (*Ophictus serpens* Lin.) locally known as *Serp il bahar* of which this is the fourth specimen which I have ever seen.

Several specimens of Shad locally known as Lacci, belonging to several species of Clupeidae, duplicates of which have been sent to Prof. D'Ancona of Siena who is at present making a special study of this Genus. The specimens retained have been preserved in a formaline solution whilst those sent to Siena were preserved in alcohol, as they probably would serve for anatomical purposes. Most of the ichthyological material has been photographed so that the zoological notes which will be published in the Bulletin of the Museum, in due course may be accompanied by the usual illustrations.

e) *Mollusks.*

Amongst the new additions to this collection the following are the most important: —

One shell of a Triton (*Triton cutaceum* Lam.) inhabited by a hermit-crab.

Several shells of *Dolium* (*Dolium galea* Lam.) mostly collected alive.

Several shells of *Cassis* (*Cassidaria echinofora* Lam.) also mostly collected alive.

One specimen of the Paper nautilus (*Argonauta argo* L.) the mollusk preserved in alcohol and the shell dry.

One specimen of *Ocythoe tuberculata* Raf. female—*Octopus carenae*, preserved in a solution of formaline.

Two specimens of the musk polipus (*Eledone moscata* Leach) preserved in a formaline solution.

One specimen of a sea slug (*Dendronotus arborescens* Mull.) preserved in alcohol.

f) *Crustacea.*

One specimen of *Lambrus* (*Lambrus mediterraneus* Roux) this appears to be a rather scarce crab in our waters frequenting rather deep waters, it is in fact the fourth or fifth specimen which I have ever seen. It has been preserved in the dry state.

g) *Echinodermata.*

To this collection the following specimens have been added which are both new species to our list: —

One specimen of *Chaetaster* (*Chaetaster longipes* [M. et Tr.] from Benghisa Reef. Preserved in the dry state.

One specimen of *Echinaster* (*Echinaster sepositus* M. et Tr.) from a depth of 45 to 50 fathoms on a coralline bottom to the south of Filfola.

Photographs of the majority of the specimens of the mollusca, echinoderms and crustaceans have also been taken, which will accompany the notes on their appearance later on in the Museum's Bulletin.

PUBLICATIONS.

Besides the publication of the Zoological notes in the Bulletin of the Museum, the same notes have also been published separately as Ornithological Herpethological, Echinological, Malacological and Concological Notes. An Ornithological note "Sulla cattura del *Rusignolo africano* (*Aeodon galactodes* Temm.) a Malta" has also been published in "Il Naturalista Siciliano" of September 1930 by Tem. Conti-Meli Esq., M.B.O.U., and another note appeared in the same periodical "Cattura di due esemplari di *Chelone mydas* Skw. nei mari di Malta" by the Curator of this section.

I have, etc.,

G. DESPOTT,

Curator.

APPENDIX C.  
MINERALOGICAL SECTION.

THE MUSEUM.

Auberge d'Italie, Valletta.

24th August, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you the usual annual report for the current year of the mineralogical and crystallographical Section of our Museum.

What interests me most, however, is the increasing interest of the Public in my Section. On several occasions this interest brought me to town when I had not intended to come, as it happened when members of the Royal Commission of 1931, with their Ladies made a long visit to our Museum.

As in preceding years, some fine presents have been made to my section. I have valid reasons for simply mentioning the presents and the name of the Donors, leaving aside for next year's report, the scientific name of the objects and the locality where they may have been found. The reason for this is that several objects require a more accurate analysis, and the local examinations of the spot where others were found becomes necessary and that requires permits and explanations.

The names of Donors are the following —

- Dr. J. G. Baldacchino
- Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar
- Mr. Emanuele Xerri
- Prof. Alexander Sultana
- Mrs. Bowden of Salonica
- Mr. Costanzo Busuttill
- His Hon. Judge A. Montanaro Gauci

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

LEWIS F MIZZI,

Curator Mineralogical Section.

APPENDIX D.

FINE ART SECTION.

THE MUSEUM,  
Auberge d'Italie,

Valletta, 24th August, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Art Section for the financial year 1930-31.

PALAZZO DEL SANTO UFFIZIO.

(*Inquisitor's Palace*).

*Ground Floor.* In the cloister which, it is presumed, was the courtyard of the old Palazzo della Castellania of Vittoriosa, a trench was cut round one of the pillars to ascertain whether the actual floor lies at its original level, but no traces of another floor were met with nor it is presumable that the pillars had ever a base of any kind.

*Piano Nobile.* During the Military tenure of this palace the cupola of the chapel was demolished and a corridor, meant to disentangle a suite of rooms in the second floor, was constructed right on the chapel; to achieve this, the two round windows under the cupola were walled up and used to support the springers of an arch on which laid the outer wall of the corridor.

This corridor and the arch that divided in two the upper portion of the chapel, and was cutting the cornices in various parts, were demolished, the original windows were reopened, and the cupola rebuilt thus restoring to the chapel its original architectural features.

The restoration of the pictorial decorations recovered from under the whitewash, was also taken in hand and entrusted to Mr. Antonio Briffa who is proceeding with the work most satisfactorily. These repairs were commenced in the large room adjoining the main hall of the palace. This room, as every other spacious room in this palace, was likewise divided in two by a partition wall; the painted decorations where not destroyed, were covered with whitewash. Under a richly decorated frieze that runs round the room, pillars and feigned windows are painted; the frieze is decorated with scrolls and festoons; the escutcheons of Pope Clement XII, of the Inquisition and of the Inquisitor Mons. Francesco Stoppani are conspicuous in the centre of each panel. On the doorway a cartouche with an inscription was also discovered. This inscription is important because it throws some light on the history of the palace; we now know that this room which I had always presumed was the Tribunal Chamber, was instead the room where the archives of the Santo Uffizio were kept; and we can now understand why the mural decorations, with the exception of the friezes, are kept some one foot and a half distant from the adjoining wall, the blank space being then occupied by the bookshelves. In deciphering this inscription, which was much injured, I availed myself of the kind and valuable cooperation of the Rev. Prof. Don Alberto Pantaleresco, D.D. It runs as follows:—

OFFICII TABULARIUM

[Innoc]ENTI PAPAE XII BENEFICIEN[tissimi]

[Hiac Filib.] FERRERI GENERALIS INQUISITORIS DILIGENTI[a]

JAMPRIDEM EXTRUCTUM

[instructum] NVPER TIGNIS ET LAQVEARIBVS

[Jo. Franciscus Stuppan] VS CLEMENTE PAPA XII GENERALIS INQUISIT[or]

REFICI

ET AD LENIENDOS SUB SYRIO FLAGRANTES AESTVS

IN COMMODIOREM FORMAM

REDIGI

CVRAVIT

ANNO

MDC[cxx]XII

It is not advisable yet to open the palace to the public, but persons desirous to visit the premises are now being admitted on a special permit. Many are availing themselves of this concession.

The following works of art were added to the Museum collections:—

PAINTINGS.

1. *The Flagellation of Christ; the holy women; three male saints and, on top, Christ in Glory amidst saints and angels.* Sienese School (?) XIVth Cent. 105 by 90 cms.

A pointed panel, very likely the upper portion of a polyptich, decorated with gothic foliage in its upper part. An extremely interesting piece, but unfortunately when restored, the brush was very freely used; however as the paint does not show a tendency to peel, it is hoped that if properly treated the overpainting may be removed. Only then the author of this panel may reveal himself.

2. *Madonna and Child and four saints.* Sienese School, XIV Cent. 55 by 35 cms.

A pointed panel, in the style of Lippo Vanni.

3. *St. Jerome.* Italian, XIIIth. Cent. 20. 5 by 16 cms.

These three pictures (1, 2, 3) represent a determined step in our endeavours to secure a comparatively representative collection of pictures for the Museum Collection. They belonged to the Messina Collection and were presented to the Museum partly in payment of an export duty in force of Art. 5 of the Antiquities Act 1925.

4. *Portrait of the G. M. Alof. de Wignacourt.* 141 by 109 cms.

Much restored. If properly treated and freed from the restorer's abundant brushwork, it is not unlikely that this picture may prove to be the work of Lionello Spada, Caravaggio's follower who portrayed Alof de Wignacourt more than once. Purchased from Sir Adrian Dingli's Collection.

5. *G. M. de Rohan, protector of the fine arts.* 78 by 57 cms.

In the Style of Ant. Favray, possibly by Giuseppe Grech who before proceeding to Rome was a pupil of Favray. Purchased.

6. *St. John's Church; the exterior.* 130 by 93 cms.

A view of the facade of St. John's Church and Piazza as it was in the time of G. M. Lascaris (1636-1657). It is particularly interesting because it shows this facade as it was before the alterations carried out after Mattia Preti's suggestions. The houses of the Grand Prior in their original architectural features are also seen, together with a fountain at the corner of Strada Reale, now not existant. In the foreground, a procession is winding its way to Strada Reale accompanied by the Grand Master and the Standard bearer of the Order. Purchased from Sir Adrian Dingli's Collection.

7. *Piazza San Giorgio.* 118 by 91 cms.

The Magisterial Palace with its single doorway, the Palace of the *Comun Tesoro*, Wignacourt's fountain and the *Colonna della Fama*. A Viaticum procession is entering the Palace. First Quarter of the XVIIIth. Cent. Purchased from Sir Adrian Dingli's Collection.

8. *Portrait of a Grand Cross of the Order* (Grand Master Ximenes?). 65 by 52 cms. From They's Collection. Purchased.

9. *Portrait of a Maltese Constructor of Galleys; by Gaetano Mercurio*, 1741. Purchased from They's Collection. 102 by 77 cms.

10. *Portrait of Mons. Fabrizio Farrugia.* 78 by 66 cms.

Mons. Fabrizio Farrugia was Vicar General of the Bishop of Malta; he died at the age of 69 in 1715. Purchased.

11. *Self-Portrait of Raffaele Cali.* 27 by 21.5 cms.

Father of Giuseppe Cali; he was a composer but practiced also as a painter and as picture restorer. He established himself in Malta in the second quarter of the XIXth Cent. Purchased.



12. *Self-portrait of Giuseppe Cali.* 25.5 by 19 cms. Painted when at the age of ten.  
Giuseppe Cali son of the Neapolitan Raffaele Cali, was born in Valletta, in August 1846. When hardly out of his tens, he developed an extraordinary tendency for art, and was sent to Naples where he joined the class of Mancinelli; the decisive influence on the formation of his style were, however, the works of Domenico Morelli. He decorated many Maltese churches with ceilings full of movement and bright colours. He also painted genre pictures and portraits. He died in 1928. Purchased.
13. *Mattia Preti giving alms to the poor.* By Giuseppe Cali. 55 by 43 cms. Purchased.
14. *Study from the nude.* By Giuseppe Cali. 64 by 50 cms.
15. *Study from the nude.* By Giuseppe Cali. 58 by 45 cms.  
Two (14-15) very clever studies done by Giuseppe Cali in the *Accademia di Belle Arti* in Naples in 1865. Purchased.
16. *Self-portrait of Raffaele Caruana.* (?) First half of the XIXth Cent.  
Painted in oils, on paper; only a fragment of a larger painting. Purchased.

## WATER COLOURS, DRAWINGS AND PRINTS.

17. *Migiarro, Gozo.* (Veduta del Porto detto Migiarro nell'Isola di Gozo verso Levante) Gouache, by Salvatore Busuttill. 60 by 23 cms.  
Salvatore Busuttill (1805 circa—1856 circa) a painter and an engraver; he settled in Rome where he made a name for himself; his Roman prints are still much cherished by art lovers. Purchased.
18. *Gozo.* (Veduta della Collina Bianca, cioè Kolla-il-baida nell'Isola del Gozo verso Tramontana) Gouache by Salvatore Busuttill; 60 by 23 cms. Purchased.
19. *Gozo.* (Veduta della Collina Gialla, cioè, Kolla is-safra vicino al Porto, o cala detto El Bahar, verso Tramontana) Gouache, by Salvatore Busuttill; 60 by 23 cms. Purchased.
20. *The General's Rock, Gozo.* (Veduta della Rocca del Generale vicino l'isola del Gozo verso ponente ove nasce il Fungus Melitensis) Gouache, by Salvatore Busuttill; 60 by 23 cm.  
The artist's name is in this picture followed by the date: 1815. Purchased.
21. *From Città Vecchia, Malta.* Water colour by Edward Lear 51 by 18 cms.  
Edward Lear, artist and author, was born in London in 1812. He wandered as a sketcher through many parts of Southern Europe and Palestine and published some interesting and well written records of his travels. In 1850 he exhibited at the Royal Academy; during his occasional visits to his country he had the honour of giving lessons in drawing to the Queen. He died at S. Remo in 1888. Purchased.
22. *St. Julian's Bay, Malta.* Water colour by Edward Lear. 34 by 21. Two (21,22) Water colours dated, one April 1866, and the other December 1865. Purchased.
23. *The Marina, Valletta.* Water colour, English, Early XIXth. Century. 45 by 19 cms. Purchased.
24. *Health Office, Malta* (The Barriera, Marina, Valletta). Two small views of Mount Etna. One sheet; water colour. English, early XIXth. cent. 44 by 9 cms. Purchased.
25. *Study of a Turk;* drawing in coloured chalk by Ant. Favray. 52 by 37 cms.  
Ant. Favray 1706-1791—Pupil of J. Francois de Troy; he established himself in Malta, where he was knighted, and where he painted for the churches a number of pictures; he was the portrait painter of the elite of the times. Purchased.
26. *Study of a Turk;* drawing in red chalks by Ant. Favray (?) 57 by 41 cms. Purchased.
27. *Maltese landscape;* drawing in black and white chalks on tinted paper, Middle XVIIIth Cent. 92 by 30 cms. Purchased.
28. *Corradino Hill with Spencer's Monument;* Pen and wash; by Giorgio Pullicino 52 by 25 cms.  
Giorgio Pullicino (1780 circa—1852 circa) Maltese architect and painter.
29. *Fort Tigné;* pen drawing by Giorgio Pullicino 59 by 27 cms. Purchased.
30. *Molini a vento;* pencil drawing by Giorgio Pullicino. 39 by 21. Purchased.

31. *A bird's eye view of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea*; Pen drawing by Giorgio Pullicino. 45 by 29 cms. Purchased.
32. *The Armoury in 1831*. Pencil drawing by Giorgio Pullicino. 38 by 25 cms. Purchased.
33. *The Grand Harbour from the Marina*. Pen drawing by G. Pullicino. 72 by 42. Purchased
34. *The Marina, Valletta*. Pen drawing by G. Pullicino. 72 by 42 cms. Purchased.
35. *Marsamuscetto Harbour*. Pen and wash by G. Pullicino. 55 by 33 cms. Purchased.
36. *Study from the nude*. Drawing in red chalk by Giuseppe Cali. 57 by 45 cms. Purchased.
37. *Study for a draped figure in black and white inks*, by Giuseppe Cali. 26 by 21 cms. Purchased.
38. *Moses*. Study in black and white, by Giuseppe Cali. 27 by 20 cms. Purchased.
39. *Study for a draped figure with a child*. Pencil drawing by Giuseppe Cali. 26 by 15 cms. Purchased.
40. *Study of children*. Drawing in chalks by Giuseppe Cali. 22 by 18 cms. Purchased.
41. *Woman and child*. Drawing in chalks by Giuseppe Cali, 18 by 13 cms.
42. *Amorini*. A study in red chalk by Giuseppe Cali. 45 by 29 cms. Purchased.
43. *St. Gerome*. A study in black and white for the altar piece in the church of the Sacro Cuore, Sliema. 35 by 25 cms. Purchased.
44. *Satyrs*. Study in black and white, by Giuseppe Cali, 30 by 24 cms. Purchased.
45. *Effigie della B. V. Maria della Dottrina che si venera nella Coll. e Parr. Chiesa di Birchircara*. Lithograph by G. Bonello. Middle XIXth Cent. 31 by 22 cms. Purchased.
46. *Count Heidn*. Lithograph by P. Caruana. Middle XIXth Cent. 30 by 22 cms. Purchased.
47. *St. Anthony of Padua*. Line engraving, an artist's proof by Giovanni Farrugia. 1834 32 by 23 cms. Purchased.

## SCULPTURE.

48. *Martyr Saints*, in wax, by Melchiorre Gafà (?) 43 cms. high. Two bozzetti, unfortunately painted in oil colours.

Melchiorre Gafà, *il Maltese* (1635 (?)—1667) was born in Malta, but worked in Rome; in 1662 he was created a member of the *Accademia di S. Lucia*. He worked a lot for the churches in Rome, where he was much esteemed and where he met an untimely and rather tragical death. Purchased.

## WORKS OF ART.

49. *A movable altar*. Maltese, second half of the XVIIIth. Cent. A gorgeous and excellent example of wood carving and gilding. Purchased.
50. *Gold Ring*. Middle XIXth. Cent. Maltese work; signed Cataldi. Purchased.

I have etc.,

VINCENZO BONELLO,  
Curator of the Art Section

The Director of the Museum.